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13 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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SUBJECT: Review of CIA Air Activities

1. This office concurs wholeheartedly in the desirability of consolidating all Agency air activities into one unit to provide greater operational efficiency and more economical utilization of personnel and equipment.
2. The draft which you prepared under date of 30 December 1958 provides a workable solution but it does not contain enough detailed information in the way of statements of function and job descriptions to permit us to comment intelligently on Annex A and its Tabs. We are prepared to discuss this with you in as much detail as you wish at your convenience.
3. Air operations in support of the clandestine services are, we believe, somewhat different from those for which you are presently responsible. The proposed Table of Organization appears to have excluded civilians in the main. Continuity, Agency knowledgeability and background, and awareness of the day to day problems cannot readily be found in, nor should they be expected from, Air Force officers. There is a very real requirement for the intimate detailed knowledge of the special requirements and background of truly clandestine operations, without which they would be seriously jeopardized. This has been built up over the years in our career civilian staff and some detailed Air Force officers have acquired it through close association. This store of knowledge must be preserved if air operations in support of the clandestine services are to be continued. To this end we believe that thoroughly experienced clandestine services officers, both civilian and military, should occupy many of the key positions in the re-organized unit.
4. I would like to emphasize that this is not the official position of the Clandestine Services. It is only that of the Air Division. Your proposal is currently receiving the attention of the Deputy Director, Plans; the Assistant Deputy Director, Plans; the Chief of Operations, DD/P; and the Chief, Operational Services. Their conclusions will of course be decisive.

Chief, Air Division
Operational Services

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW